

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A method of injection molding a receptacle fitted with a flat covering label having at least two edges and a thickness less than or equal to 80 microns, in which method the label is inserted into a mold prior to molding, the mold having a mold core, a mold matrix, and a molding space between the core and the matrix, wherein the label is preshaped by sealing said at least two edges together, and the method comprises the successive steps of:

- (i) gripping with movable pneumatic gripping means an outside face of the preshaped label having said at least two edges sealed together, said preshaped label being folded in a flat configuration;
- (ii) reshaping the folded label in an unflattened rolled configuration with said movable pneumatic gripping means;
- (iii) transferring and depositing the unflattened label onto the core by the movable pneumatic gripping means;
- (iv) closing the mold; and
- (v) introducing plastics material in the molding space.

16. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 15, wherein the shaped label material has a thickness less than or equal to 50 microns.

17. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 15 wherein:
at step (i), when gripping said folded flat labels, said folded flat labels are stored in a stack of a magazine; and

at step (ii), before reshaping said folded flat label, said folded flat labels are extracted from said stack by said movable pneumatic gripping means.

18. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 15, wherein a plurality of labels are transferred simultaneously to the gripping means.

19. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

engaging a portion of the shaped label around a mold core; and

placing the label around the mold core with use of a thrusting member.

Claim 20 (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 15, wherein the labels comprise paper.

22. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 15 wherein the labels comprise polypropylene.

23. (currently amended) An apparatus for injection molding a receptacle, comprising:
a mold having a male portion and a female portion for molding the receptacle; and
movable pneumatic transfer means capable of depositing a label in the mold before
molding the receptacle;

wherein[÷] said male portion is capable of receiving a covering rolled label having at least two edges sealed together and attaching said label to the receptacle;

wherein said movable pneumatic transfer means are capable of pneumatically gripping said label under a folded flat configuration by contacting an outside face of said label, reshaping said folded flat label into a rolled ~~unflattened~~ unflattened configuration, and depositing the said rolled label on said male portion of the mold; and

wherein said apparatus further comprises means for deploying and expanding said label from its folded flat configuration to an unfolded shape, said means expanding and deploying the side walls of said label from its inside.

24. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in claim 23 comprising:

a magazine for storing a group of flat labels in a stack wherein said folded flat labels have been shaped in a folded configuration; and

a movable pneumatic transfer means capable of gripping said folded label in a folded flat configuration by contacting an outside face of said label within said stack; extracting said folded label from the stack; and reshaping said folded flat label in a rolled unflattened configuration.

25. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in claim 24 23, wherein said ~~movable pneumatic transfer means further comprises a blowing element interfaced with the magazine for expanding the label to unflatten the label, wherein~~ means for deploying and expanding said folded flat label comprises movable blowers suitable for blowing jets of air inside said folded label so as to complete deployment of said label and the movable pneumatic transfer means, in

~~communication with the blowing element~~, is capable of gripping said outside face of the label as the label expands to said unflattened state.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in claim 23, wherein the movable pneumatic transfer means comprises a movable pneumatic transfer support element comprising a plurality of elements for holding the shaped and expanded label and for transferring a plurality of labels simultaneously into a multi-cavity mold.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in claim 26, wherein the movable pneumatic transfer support element comprises a plurality of cells each operable to receive at least a portion of an expanded label.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in claim 27, further comprising a robot operable to move the movable pneumatic transfer support element relative to an axis of rotation and an axis of translation.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus recited in claim 28, further comprising:
an element for engaging the expanded label in part of the mold core; and
an element for thrusting the label into the core after the label has been engaged in a part of the core